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WAR NEWS.

An order was issued on the 7th instant consolidating the army of the Potomac under one command. To the first corps is assigned Major General J. F. Reynolds; to the second, Major General D. N. Couch; the third has for its commander Brigadier General D. E. Sickles; the fifth, Major General George G. Meade; the Sixth, Major General John Sedgwick; the eleventh Major General Franz Sigel; twelfth, Major General H. W. Slocum.

A dispatch dated St. Louis, February 6, states that a movement of the Army of the Frontier was ordered several days ago, which was supposed to be directed toward Little Rock, but when the troops were allready to start, the order was countermanded. General Blunt's Division is now at Crake Creek, Totten's is at Flat Creek, and Heron's is at Forsyth, all within forty-five miles of Springfield. Bloomfield, which was taken by the enrolled militia week before last, and evacuated next day, has been reoccupied by the Confederates, who are arresting Union men as hostages for persons taken prisoners at Bloomfield when last held by the Union troops. A detachment of the 12th Missouri Cavalry had been ordered to release the Union men.

We have accounts of the sailing of General Foster's Expedition from Beaufort, N. C., and its safe arrival at Port Royal, S. C. The first vessels of the fleet reached the latter place on the morning of the 31st ult., and the rest of the steamers followed in the course of the day. The sailing vessels had also mostly arrived at the date of our latest advices—the 3d instant. General Foster was in conference with General Hunter.

An account of the second engagement of the Eriesson Monitor Montauk with the Confederate batteries at the mouth of the Ogechee river, states that the iron clad fired in the aggregate about eighty rounds, but was unable to breach the work in consequence of the thickness of the embankment. She was struck forty-six times, but received no other damage than the starting of some bolts in her pilot-house by a rifle shot, and the shattering of her smoke-stack. It is considered probable that no further attempt will be made on Fort McAllister until other work is done by the Montauk.

The latest advices from New Orleans report no new military movements. General Banks was busy planning his operations, and the troops at Baton Rouge were being thoroughly drilled. The Confederates continue to strengthen their works at Port Hudson.

A portion of Baker's detective corps, on Monday night seized 168 cases of boots and shoes in transition across the Potomac, from Leonardtown, destined for Dixie. The goods and those who were smuggling them are now on the way up the Potomac under guard.

A SKIRMISH NEAR YORKTOWN, VA.—Intelligence from Yorktown states that, during the past week, a number of Confederates had been made prisoners in that quarter, and a number of Confederate deserters had come within the lines. Last Saturday, five deserters came in, and reported that sixteen others were awaiting an opportunity to come in also. Major Kling accordingly ordered two companies of cavalry to proceed in search of the deserters. The squadron about six miles out found the sixteen deserters, the Confederate pickets retiring before them. Captain Faith pushed forward after them without orders, and about three miles beyond, he, with his whole command, found themselves in an ambuscade, and were fired upon by the Confederates. He was brought off, as was supposed, mortally wounded. Capt. Hagerman, upon whom the command now devolved, bravely fought, but getting separated from his men, was taken prisoner. Lieuts. Williams, Smith and Little were also taken prisoners, and Lieut. Rhine-miller was seen to fall from his horse, and is supposed to have been killed. The Federal entire loss was 30 killed, wounded and made prisoners. The Confederates are reported to be in some force about 12 miles from Williamsburg.

A letter from the Army of the Potomac, in the Philadelphia Inquirer, dated Falmouth, September 7th, says: "The first brigade of the Pennsylvania Reserves, Col. Wm. McCandless, commanding, embarked on board transports last night, at Belle Plain, for Washington city. The first brigade comprises the Bucktails, first, second and sixth regiments. The Second and Third brigades will embark for the same destination in a day or two, as soon as transports are provided. The 121st regiment, Col. Chapman Biddle, and the 142d regiment, Col. Cummins, three years' troops, but only a short time in service, and brigaded with the Reserve, will not accompany them to Washington. The object of taking the Reserve division to Washington is to recruit and reorganize it before it is again put into active service. It is said that one brigade will be stationed near Alexandria, another north of Washington, and a third at Frederick, Maryland. It is the intention to supply the place of the Reserves with other troops from Washington, so that the strength of the army here may be maintained." These are the troops, numbers of which are seen every day in this town and neighborhood.

Horace Greeley has been sued for libel by Mr. Isaac Cook, of Chicago. The ground is, that the Tribune, commenting on the defalcation of the gambling Paymaster Cook, of Ohio, mistook the individual and said it was Mr. Cook, of Chicago. But the Tribune made a very prompt and full retraction as soon as the error was discovered.

The church at Newport City N. C., was totally destroyed by fire on Wednesday night last. It is supposed that some contrabands went into the edifice and built up a fire to warm themselves, and neglected to quench it on leaving. Another theory is that it was the result of incendiarism.

The Committee on Federal Relations, in the Kentucky House of Representatives, have reported an address and resolutions evincing a bitter spirit of opposition to the administration, protesting against the proclamation of emancipation, and declining to accept the President's proposition of compensated emancipation of the 19th of May, 1862; affirming that Kentucky will adhere to the Constitution and the Union, and that she hails with delight the recent manifestations of conservative sentiment among the people of the non-slaveholding States at the late elections; that the time has arrived when a convention should be called to amend the Constitution; that it is expedient for the Mississippi valley States to hold a convention to determine what is best to be done to prevent one or more States appropriating to themselves the exclusive use of the Mississippi river, and declaring that the laws of Kentucky must be maintained and enforced.

Another negro army bill was introduced yesterday by Senator Sumner, which is to be added to Stevens's measure, now pending in the Senate. It provides that every able-bodied male person freed by the act to confiscate property of the "rebels," or the proclamations of the President, shall severally be enrolled as a military force by commanding officers within whose department such persons shall be found.

The beautiful statue of Washington, taken from the capitol at Baton Rouge, has been stationed in one of the niches in the west wing of the hall of the House of Representatives, in Washington, directly fronting Leutze's celebrated painting of Western Emigration.

The New York Tribune condemns the Thayer-Florida scheme in the most decided manner. Of its probable success, the Tribune says:—"We have heard of chaps who 'were after wool and came home shorn,' and we are not sure that this would not prove just such an enterprise."

A committee have been for some days privately investigating a comprehensive system of swindling which has been kept in working order at the Brooklyn navy yard for some time. They intend, when furnished with necessary affidavits, to proceed to Washington and lay before the Navy Department a statement of the whole facts, supported by incontrovertible testimony.

The Louisiana Legislature adjourned on the 3d of January. Among other business, a resolution was passed changing the seat of government from Opelousas to Shreveport, on Red river. The militia bill, which was passed, takes in all men, foreigners included, between 17 and 50, and makes very few exemptions. The Governor is to call out the whole militia immediately.

The Congressional Investigating Committee, in relation to the chartering of vessels for Gen. Banks' expedition, brings some serious charges against parties in the Northern cities.

Public meetings in Iowa protest against immigration of negroes into that State.